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student power: by what right?

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STUDENT POWER: BY WHAT RIGHT? (first of several parts)

Who should run Boston University? Ed Siegel, editor of the News, and one of the more prominent javelin-bearers for the New Left and the student power movement at B.U., thinks the students and faculty should. He has said that students and faculty have the right to control the University while "...the power of the Administration is illegitimate because it is not derived from the students and faculty, but from the unrepresentative Board of Trustees."

Mr. Siegel's insistent demands for student control of the University evade the fact that it is privately owned and does not belong to the students or faculty. Thus, when he says that as long as the Administration runs the school according to the desires of the owners (Board of Trustees), it will be "illegitimate" and "unrepresentative," it is his way of saying that he opposes private ownership.

The concept of private ownership, Mr. Siegel recognizes, is the only thing in the way of a New Left take-over at Boston University, or, on a wider scale, in the way of a New Left take-over of the nation. In the most fundamental sense, the concept of property is the retaining wallbetween a civilized society and one of savages. In pre-Nazi Germany, for example, the whole idea of property had to be damned and damned again before Hitler and his Youth Corp could succeed in taking over the nation.

This is the purpose and motive behind Mr. Siegel's constant use of the words "illegitimate" and "unrepresentative" when speaking of the

When the government first introduced transcontinental service, it discovered that it could not compete with the privately owned Pony Express. Congress eliminated this embarassing competition by passing a law against it -- one which still stands and has created the largest coercive monopoly in the world.

While the government continues a tight stranglehold on first class mail, its hold on the other classes is less tenuous.

1
It has failed to make money on any class but first (if that).

2
The present mail load is totally beyond the abilities of the P.O.

3
The precise wording of the law refers to "letters" only, leaving the P.O. legally open to competition in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class mail. Newspaper delivery, messenger services, parcel post by UPS are examples of presently uncontested compitition.

Last winter, when Thomas Murray, 43, and Darrel Hinshaw, 31, of Oklahoma City, organized the Independent Postal System of America, and began delivering 3rd class bulk mail, the government's objections were rather weak and prefunctory. (The postal authorities cited laws against the use of mailboxes by anyone but the P.O. But Murray calmly responded by delivering his circulars in plastic bags which were hung over the recipient's doorknob.)

Unchallenged, IPSA has already expanded into the cities of Tulsa, Okla, Ardmore, okla., Dallas, and St. Louis. According to Time magazine, the company has already served over 110 firms in Oklahoma and expects $1,000,000 in business before 1969. A few of its customers include Goodyear, J.C. Penney, Western Auto, and Otasco. Hinshaw predicts that the service will be nation-wide within two years. Right now, offices are being opened in dozen of large cities on East and West coasts.

IPSA can attribute its phenomenal success thus far to its overwhelming superiority over the government's operation. While the government charges $42 to address and delivery 1000 pieces, Murray offers addressing and guaranteed 100% delivery for $25 per 1000. And while the U.S. Post Office delivers 3rd class bulk mail "when there is room in the mailbag," Murray and Hinshaw guarantee total delivery on whatever day the customer chooses.

If these private postmen can provide a amazingly superior service ("With us, third class is first class.") at half the price, yet still make a profit, what might they or a similar company do with first class, which is said to be the government's only money maker? Coast to coast daily delivery?

It is worth considering: if the mail moves the country, then it is only logical that the men most capable should be free to move the mail.

What are the moral arguments against government ownership? This question will be discussed next issue.